STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR BARBOUR ON HOUSE BILL 1346

"I want to thank members of the Mississippi House who on Monday decided to let a bill die that would have raised business taxes and threatened job creation. By not bringing up House Bill 1346 on Monday, the House supported my long-held position that the last thing Mississippi needs in the middle of this global recession is a tax increase on the very people who create jobs. The bill was intended to draw down federal stimulus funds which, once drained, would force Mississippi to raise taxes on employers to the tune of \$18 million per year. I appreciate the members of the House who clearly recognized this bill for what it would eventually be - a 75 percent tax increase on Mississippi business owners. I urge the House to take guick action on Senate Bill 2404 to continue the Department of Employment Security without any disruption to the assistance provided to job seekers and employers."